

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00384 221113Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----221116Z 011317/11

P R 220915Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 250
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL AMMAN 0384

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON,
TEL AVIV FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

REF: TEL AVIV 0437 (NOTAL)

1. TOM DUNNIGAN IN TEL AVIV WAS APPROACHED BY SHLOMO AVINERI
ON QUESTION OF "WHEN" I WOULD BE COMING OVER AS THEY WOULD
LIKE TO HAVE AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. AVINERI
CITED RECENT VISIT BY MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, JOHN MOBERLY,
TO "WEST BANK" AND FACT THAT JORDANIANS HAD NOT REACTED
NEGATIVELY AS POSSIBLE REASON FOR OUR REVIEWING SITUATION
ON SUCH TRAVEL.

2. QUITE INDEPENDENTLY, MOBERLY BROUGHT WORD OF "GREETINGS"
BACK TO ME FROM HIS VISIT FROM MOSHE RAVIV IN ISRAEL MFA
AMERICAN DEPARTMENT WHOM I KNEW IN WASHINGTON AND HAVE
SEEN SINCE -- FLEETINGLY FOR A HANDSHAKE IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE BRIDGE WHEN VISITORS WERE CROSSING.

3. MOBERLY'S VISIT WAS CLEARED WITH THE KING. I AM
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LESS CERTAIN THAT HE TOLD GOJ HE WAS TALKING WITH
ISRAELI MFA OFFICIALS, HE ASKED ME TO KEEP THAT FACT
CLOSE-HOLD, BUT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE DID.

4. I HAVE TOLD TOM DUNNIGAN THAT I WOULD BE IN TOUCH
WITH YOU DIRECTLY ON THE QUESTION AND ASKED HIM TO SAY
NOTHING TO AVINERI UNTIL I CAN GET YOUR OWN THINKING AND

THAT OF OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE CONCERNED IN WASHINGTON.

5. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, WHICH STILL SEEMS TO PREDOMINATE IN MY OWN MIND, IS THE TRADITIONAL ISSUE OF OUR NOT WISHING TO PLACE JORDAN AND OURSELVES IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BY HAVING MORE APPEAR TO GO ON THAN ACTUALLY DOES. SINCE OUR RELATIONS ARE PARTICULARLY CLOSE HERE AND CONFIDENCES EXCHANGED ON A BASIS THAT IS RATHER HARD TO BEAT, I WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE THE JORDANIANS REACT BY SAYING GO AHEAD, ONLY TO COME BACK AND FIND SOME DOORS AND MINDS SHUT TO DEALING WITH ME. ALSO, THERE ARE THE OTHER ARABS. WE KNOW THE SYRIANS MAKE IT A PRACTICE TO KEEP OUT ALL OF OUR PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM, AND WOULD NOT WELCOME ANYONE THEY KNEW WAS GOING BACK AND FORTH WITH CERTAINTY. JORDANIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS BEING WHAT THEY ARE IT MIGHT BE WISER TO BE CAUTIOUS. SECRECY WOULD HELP A LOT, BUT I SEE NO WAY THAT IT COULD BE MAINTAINED IF I CROSS THE BRIDGE. FINALLY, I SEE LITTLE THAT I COULD ACTUALLY PASS ON TO THE ISRAELIS THAT THEY CANNOT GLEAN -- AND BETTER -- FROM TEL AVIV AND YOU IN WASHINGTON. FINALLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF OTHERS FROM WASHINGTON WHO MIGHT BE MAKING TRIPS AROUND THE AREA, AND HOW AND IN WHAT WAYS YOU WISH TO PLAN FOR THOSE VISITS.

6. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISSUE, WHILE I CANNOT PREDICT, THERE IS ALWAYS A CHANCE THE KING WOULD SAY GO AHEAD, RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH MIGHT HELP TO IMPROVE ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT GOES ON OVER HERE. THERE
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IS THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT ISSUE TOO -- I THINK THE JORDANIANS GENUINELY APPRECIATE THE VISITORS WE HAVE FROM TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM AND THE INSIGHTS THEY BRING, AND IT MIGHT HELP TO ASK KING ABOUT RECIPROCATING. MY HOPE CERTAINLY WOULD BE THAT WHOEVER IS NAMED FOR TEL AVIV MIGHT HIMSELF SOMETIME COME OVER, BUT THAT ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY PLANNED.

7. ON BALANCE, I CAME OUT AGAINST, BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE THERE ARE NO CONSIDERATIONS AT YOUR END WHICH I MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED OR NOT BE AWARE OF. I DO THIS SOMEWHAT REGRETFULLY BECAUSE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES ABOUT WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO ENLIGHTEN MYSELF FURTHER ON THE "OTHER SIDE", SOME ON WHICH I COULD POSSIBLY BE HELPFUL THERE, AND FINALLY AN URGE TO TRAVEL IN THAT DIRECTION AND HAVE A LOOK OVER THE GROUND WHICH I HAVE FOR SO LONG LOOKED AT LIKE MOSES FROM THIS SIDE ONLY.

8. IF YOU AGREE, I SUGGEST WE ASK TOM TO TELL SHLOMO AVINERI THAT I HAVE NO CURRENT PLANS TO COME OVER AND GIVEN THE EXPECTED PACE OF EVENTS HERE WILL WANT TO STICK CLOSE FOR TIME BEING. HE COULD TELL HIM THAT I APPRECIATE THE INVITATION AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THEM UP ON IT SOMETIME.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MEETINGS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN00384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770024-0471
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770128/aaaaaxuv.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3cc4b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 437
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3530770
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR), (AVINERI, SHLOMO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3cc4b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009